

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 199190

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

S E C R E T STATE 199190

NO FORN

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: IDA REPORT ON STRATEGIES AGAINST HEROIN IN MEXICO

REF: STATE 182249

1. REFTEL DESCRIBES PURPOSE OF AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIES TOWARD ILLICIT DRUGS COMING FROM MEXICO AND SUPPORTIVE ROLE OF INSTITUTE OF DEFENSE ANALYSIS TEAM.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS JUST RECEIVED IDA REPORT (CLASSIFIED SECRET/NO FORN). FOLLOWING ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS WHICH EMBASSY MAY FIND INTERESTING (FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED):

A. QUOTE HOWEVER, IT WAS THE UNANIMOUS OPINION OF ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL THAT THE MAJOR TRAFFICKERS ARE KNOWN OR KNOWABLE TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. THUS

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 199190

THE PROBLEM IN ENFORCEMENT IS HOW THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT COULD EFFECTIVELY NEUTRALIZE THESE GROUPS GIVEN THEIR MEAGER RESOURCES AND THE WIDESPREAD OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT.

(PP. 18) UNQUOTE.

B. QUOTE THE (ERADICATION) CAMPAIGN ALSO SUFFERED FROM THE RIGIDITY OF THE CONTROL SYSTEM, WHICH DIRECTED

EVERYTHING THROUGH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. THIS RIGIDITY WAS DETRIMENTAL TO THE U.S. ALSO SINCE ALL U.S. CONTACTS WITH THE OPERATION HAD TO BE MADE THROUGH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, A REQUIREMENT WHICH TENDED TO RESTRICT BOTH THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF INFORMATION WHICH WAS PASSED TO THE UNITED STATES. (PP. 21) UNQUOTE.

C. QUOTE THE UNITED STATES IS NOT WITHOUT THE POTENTIAL MEANS TO CREATE EXTERNAL INCENTIVES TO FURTHER MEXICAN ACTION, IN THE EVENT THAT THE MEXICANS SHOULD BE UNWILLING TO EXTEND MARKEDLY THEIR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. IT IS NOTABLE THAT THE TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO INVOLVE ACTIVITIES BY MEXICAN NATIONALS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES THAT ARE CLEARLY RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONALLY AS ILLEGAL--THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.... THERE ARE SEVERAL AREAS IN WHICH AN EXTERNAL INCENTIVE TO MORE EFFECTIVE MEXICAN ACTION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, IF SUCH ACTION IS NOT FORTHCOMING. (PP. 33) UNQUOTE.

D. QUOTE THE UNITED STATES COULD TIE MUCH MORE STRINGENT ILLEGAL ALIEN MEASURES TO MEXICAN DRUG ACTIONS. (PP. 34) UNQUOTE.

E. QUOTE WHATEVER THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE ARMS TRAFFIC AND THE DRUG TRAFFIC, THE UNITED STATES COULD POSSIBLY PLAY UPON THE CONCERN OF THE MEXICANS OVER INSURGENCY, BY LINKING U.S. EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE ARMS FLOW TO THE MEXICAN DRUG EFFORTS. THE MEXICANS ARE CONCERNED OVER THE ARMS TRAFFIC AND HAVE REQUESTED U.S. AID IN CONTROLLING IT. (PP. 34) UNQUOTE.

F. QUOTE FINALLY, THE MEXICANS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE
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PAGE 03 STATE 199190

U.S. MIGHT TAKE SOME DRASTIC ACTION TO STOP THE FLOW OF DRUGS. THEY PROBABLY FEAR ANOTHER OPERATION INTERCEPT OR SOMETHING OF ITS SCALE AND IMPACT, IF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CONCERNS OVER MEXICAN DRUGS SHOULD BECOME AROUSED. (PP. 34) UNQUOTE.

G. QUOTE A FORWARD STRATEGY IN MEXICO AGAINST HEROIN CONSISTS OF THREE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS: INTENSIVE POPPY ERADICATION USING HELICOPTER-BORNE HERBICIDES; TARGETING OF MAJOR TRAFFICKERS; AND PUNITIVE ACTIONS AGAINST OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATORS. (PP. 35) UNQUOTE.

H. QUOTE USE OF HERBICIDES COULD GIVE A QUANTUM JUMP IN ERADICATION CAPABILITY SUFFICIENT TO DESTROY A MAJOR PART OF THE MEXICAN OPIUM CROP. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD

ADOPT A POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AND THEN PRESS THE GOM TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS. (PP. 38) UNQUOTE.

I. QUOTE IF MANUAL DESTRUCTION BY THE ARMY CONTINUES TO BE THE MAJOR DESTRUCTION MODE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE BY THE U.S. TO THE MEXICAN ARMY MAY BE THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH AN IMPROVED LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS CAN BE OBTAINED. SUCH BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE LONG TERM. FOR THE SPRING 1976 CAMPAIGN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO OBTAINING MORE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE AS HIGH A LEVEL OF OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AS POSSIBLE. THIS IMPLIES GREATER PLANNING AND SHARING OF INFORMATION THAN APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GOM. (PP. 41) UNQUOTE.

J. QUOTE IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE CONCEPT BE INTRODUCED TO THE GOM OF A SELECTIVE BUT RIGOROUS EFFORT TO BE APPLIED TO SEVERAL MAJOR GROUPS, EXTENDING FROM THEIR LEADERSHIP TO PROCESSING FACILITIES, AND WHERE POSSIBLE, TO THE AREAS WHICH SUPPLY THEIR OPIUM. EVEN IF THE GOM WERE TO SELECT GROUPS WITH THE LEAST EMBARRASSING OFFICIAL CONNECTIONS, THE EFFECT ON OTHER GROUPS MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLE. IMPLICIT IN SUCH A SELECTIVE ATTACK, OF COURSE, IS AN EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-THROUGH TO ASSURE THAT THE

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SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 199190

OFFENDERS ARE APPROPRIATELY PROSECUTED AND PUNISHED. (PP. 43) UNQUOTE.

K. QUOTE IN THE AREA OF CORRUPTION IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INDICTMENTS AGAINST INDIVIDUAL MEXICAN OFFICIALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRAFFIC. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION OF THIS TYPE AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. AND SINCE IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ARE MUCH MORE EXTENSIVELY AWARE OF SUCH INVOLVEMENT, THE PROSPECT OF SUCH U.S. ACTIONS MIGHT INDUCE THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MEASURES IN THIS DIRECTION. (PP. 44) UNQUOTE.

L. QUOTE IN THE PAST THE INITIATIVES OF U.S. PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN INDUCING THE MEXICANS TO GREATER EFFORTS, AND IT APPEARS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP BE CONTINUED AND INCREASED IN AN EXPANDED PROGRAM. THIS ASSISTANCE IS OF TWO BASIC SORTS: (1) PRESENCE DURING ERADICATION TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE PLANNING

AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND TO MONITOR RESULTS; AND
(2) ASSISTANCE IN TARGETING MAJOR TRAFFICKERS, AMASSING
EVIDENCE, AND COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE...INVOLVING BOTH
DEA AGENT ACTIVITY AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS. (P. 49)
UNQUOTE.

M. QUOTE: CURRENT POLICY STATEMENTS ON THE CURTAILMENT
OF THE SUPPLY OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS REACHING
THE UNITED STATES ARE TOO BROAD TO DEFINE THE OBJECTIVES
FOR A CONTROL PROGRAM AGAINST MEXICAN (OR OTHER) HEROIN
AND TO ASSURE APPROPRIATE PRIORITIES ...IF THE US OBJECTIVE,
FOR EXAMPLE, IS TO ATTEMPT A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE
MEXICAN SUPPLY...AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
CURRENT MEXICAN SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATING
AGAINST THE US SUGGESTS THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS EFFORT
COULD WELL EXCEED THAT MOUNTED AGAINST THE (FRENCH-TURKISH
SYSTEM OF) SUPPLY, SINCE IN MANY RESPECTS THE MEXICAN
SITUATION PRESENTS MORE DIFFICULT DIPLOMATIC AND ENFORCE-
MENT PROBLEMS. (PP. 51) UNQUOTE.

N. QUOTE: IN ANY EVENT, THE DETERMINATION OF OUR OVERALL
OBJECTIVE AND A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF ATTENDANT COSTS
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PAGE 05 STATE 199190

AND RISKS, APPEAR TO BE MAJOR ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED
DURING THIS POLICY REVIEW. (PP. 52) UNQUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT POSITION IS THAT WHILE REPORT HAS USEFUL
ELEMENTS AND WILL BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH OTHER DOCU-
MENTS BY THE CCINC IN ITS CONTINUING FORMULATION OF POLICY
RE MEXICAN-ORIGIN NARCOTICS, BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF
INADEQUACIES OF THE REPORT, IT WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE TO
INCLUDE IT IN THE CURRENT DOMESTIC COUNCIL REVIEW.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY COMMENT. MAW

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